



noaa week

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LIBRARY

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Marine Fisheries Service Begins Reorganization

A reorganization of the National Marine Fisheries Service is underway to realign its organization and functions in keeping with new and expanded responsibilities in fisheries management under the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

The reorganization provides a single focal point for policy development and managerial guidance at headquarters level, emphasizes long-range planning and program evaluation, consolidates the management and planning of fisheries research and utilization functions, delegates more authority and operational responsibility to units in the field, and streamlines the organization of headquarters staff units.

A new position of Associate Director, who will execute policy decisions of the Director and allocate Service resources, has been established.

Four new staff offices have been organized within the Washington headquarters: the Office of Scientific and Technical Services, the Office of Fisheries Development, the Office of Policy Development and Long-Range Planning, and the Office of Marine Recreational Fisheries.

Three offices have been abolished—those of the Associate Directors for Resource Research, Resource Utilization, and Resource Management.

Four offices will remain basically unchanged: the Office of International Fisheries; the Office of Executive and Administrative Support; the Office of Program Planning, Budget, and Evaluation; and the Office of Fisheries Management.

The Office of Scientific and Technical Services assists the Director with environmental protection, the Columbia River Program, environmental impact statements, aquaculture and other research, resource assessment, and with integration of programs.

The Office of Fisheries Development provides staff advice and review at the national level on financial assistance programs, harvesting and marketing technology, regional fisheries development programs, foreign trade, voluntary inspection and grading programs, and on product standards for seafoods.

The Office of Policy Development and Long-Range Planning reviews, evaluates, and coordinates current policies and pro-

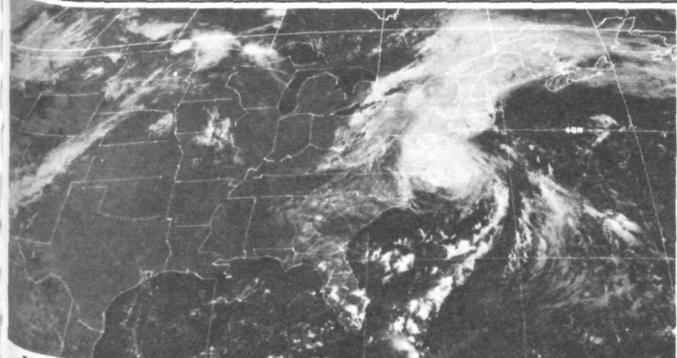
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Quota Reached -- Porpoise Killing Banned by NOAA

A ban on killing of porpoises by U.S. tuna fishermen goes into effect today (October 22), the National Marine Fisheries Service has announced. The reason for this stringent action is that the U.S. yellowfin tuna purse seine fleet will by this date have exceeded the NMFS quota for 1976 on porpoises permitted to be killed incidental to commercial fishing operations.

In 1975, of the approximately 339 million pounds of yellowfin tuna caught by the U.S. fleet, about 72 percent was caught while fishing on porpoise. Total catch of all species of tuna by the U.S. fleet in 1975 was approximately 568 million pounds, of which 43 percent was caught on porpoise.

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NOAA's GOES-1 satellite photographed hurricane Belle August 9 as she moved up the East Coast. Scientists in the New York Bight were to collect unusual data on the effects of the storm on the Bight's ecosystem.

NOAA Scientists Get Close Look At Hurricane's Effect on Bight

When hurricane Belle charged past New York last August, it also passed through one of the best-studied bodies of water in the world.

For the last three years, NOAA has been studying the New York Bight—the corner of the Atlantic bordering Long Island and New Jersey—to understand the effects of the area's 20 million inhabitants on the marine ecosystem. The major project is part of NOAA's Marine Ecosystems Analysis (MESA) program, managed by the Environmental Research Laboratories.

Belle provided an opportunity to study the effects of a hurricane, and soon after the storm passed, project manager Dr. Larry Swanson was on the phone rounding up the ships and scientists.

The NOAA Ship Kelez, on her way to Newport, Rhode Island, for maintenance, was recalled to recover current meter arrays that had been deployed throughout the Bight. The Kelez was able to recover all 35 meters, and about 80 percent of the associated instrumentation. It was the first comprehensive array of current meters to survive a hurricane. The measurements they collected, when analyzed over the next few months, may provide new information on hurricane-driven currents.

Dr. George Freeland and John

Burns of NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratories in Miami also sailed with the Kelez after the hurricane. They collected over 80 samples of bottom sediments at half-mile intervals through the northwest corner of the Bight concentrating on the sewage

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National Weather Service Lets Hydrologic Research Contracts

New techniques for evaluating the effectiveness of flood forecasts and for examining ways people respond to them will be developed under two contracts awarded recently by the National Weather Service.

The two new research contracts, among four awarded by the NWS Hydrologic Research Laboratory went to the University of Arizona (\$88,000) and the University of Wisconsin (\$58,000). A third contract, for \$98,600, was awarded to North American Weather Consultants for development of better ways to account for geographic variation of precipitation amounts in mountainous areas; and a fourth contract for \$7,000, was awarded to the University of Wyoming for continuation of work comparing various snowfall-measurement devices now in international use. The goal is to insure comparability of snowfall

data. National Weather Service hydrologists want to know more about human response to flood forecasts because flood-plain residents often fail to respond to predictions of high water, with unnecessary flood damage resulting. The research may lead to better ways of disseminating higher quality flood forecast information to the public, possibly making individuals better prepared to reduce flood damages.

Improved knowledge of precipitation in mountainous areas is being sought because the difficulty and expense of setting up data-collection systems in such areas has resulted in insufficient information needed to prepare accurate and timely flood forecasts. The goal is to improve procedures by incorporating meteorological information now readily available with existing ground-based precipitation-data networks

NACOA Advocates Changes in Marine, Weather, Climate Programs

The National Advisory Committee for Oceans and Atmosphere, in a wide-ranging report, has advocated significant changes in the Nation's energy, marine, weather and climate programs.

Chairman of the 25-member group, charged with reporting to the President and Congress annually on the state of the Nation's marine and atmospheric programs, is William J. Hargis, Jr., Director of the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences.

In a report transmitted to the White House on September 28 by the Secretary of Commerce, NACOA recommended refocusing Federal atmospheric and oceanic planning and operational activities.

Major recommendations are:

-That an ad hoc task force be established by legislation to formulate a comprehensive marine affairs policy and plan pending development of a continuing coordinating mechanism. NACOA stated that oceanic events are developing more rapidly than are plans to cope with them.

-That the Nation explore and develop offshore oil and gas resources consistent with environmental safety and the need for maintaining strategic reserves; and that the process be reconciled with an economic atmosphere suitable for development.

-That Congress enact pending legislation for a program of climate watch, forecasting and research under the coordination of the Secretary of Commerce.

-That NOAA receive responsibility for coordinating and managing a coherent Federal program of weather modification research and experimentation.

-That Federal funding for the National Sea Grant program be increased from \$23 million to about \$40 million per year over the next three to five years, and that its legislation be amended to free earmarked funds from matching criteria; and that its operations, goals and priorities be studied and improved.

NACOA found "too much emphasis on haste" in energy research projects whose payoffs are distant in time, and not enough on near term possibilities. It recommended the establishment in the Energy Research and Development Administration of a Directorate for Oversight of Energy Research (DOER) reporting directly to the Administrator, whose function would be to give the Administrator technical advice on comparisons of alternatives.

NACOA also termed inadequate Environmental Protection Agency pollution research programs addressed to long-term basic knowledge needs. It asked that longer term basic research receive more attention and that lead agencies be established for this purpose in three areas: the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences for human health and disease; NOAA for the atmosphere and oceans; and the Department of

the Interior for plant and animal life on land and inland waters, with the Council on Environmental Quality leading a high-level interagency coordinating committee in the effort. NACOA also called attention to "serious deficiencies" in diversification-related research, and in the development of decompression tables, and recommended a \$3.5 million program toward faster, safer decompression and toward better understanding of the effects of undersea work.

The panel recommended that the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Weather Service review aviation weather needs and capabilities in the light of technological advance; and update their priorities and agreements. It also recommended that educational standards for training in the use of weather information be improved, with emphasis on the effects of developing weather situations on flight control; that computer programs be used to screen deviating data on airway weather observations; that forecasts be analyzed after the fact; and that rapid weather hazard warnings be available to all pilots in flight.

Under NACOA's legislation, the Secretary of Commerce is required to respond to the report's recommendations. His comments, which reflect the views of all government agencies involved, accompanied the NACOA document to the White House and Capitol Hill.

Secretary of Commerce Elliot L. Richardson transmitted general agreement with a great many of NACOA's recommendations, but he and other officials took issue with others.

Stating that the U.S. is "setting the pace" for oceans policies, the Secretary sees the problem as the "lack of a comprehensive approach to setting ocean policies." He termed "the more traditional modes of cooperation between the Executive and the Congress" preferable to NACOA's suggestion for an ad hoc task force; and pointed out that NACOA itself can, under its charter, undertake long-term advisory planning efforts.

The recommendation concerning offshore oil and gas development drew comment from Interior Secretary Thomas Kleppe, EPA Administrator Russell Train, and Secretary Richardson.

Secretary Kleppe said it was urgent for the government to encourage industry to get on with exploration drilling at a maximum responsible rate. He also expressed concern with NACOA's reference to maintenance of strategic reserves as susceptible to misinterpretation by those who might read into it endorsement of government oil and gas exploration - which, he said, is not the case.

EPA Administrator Train, concurring "generally" with Secretary Kleppe, voiced his concern that our present knowledge of marine ecological processes and our present technology is of doubtful adequacy

to establish or protect oceanic environmental norms. He said offshore energy development should proceed only with full recognition of the need for obtaining scientific information and technology necessary to assure environmentally sound decisions.

Secretary Richardson agreed that it would be useful to separate exploration and development environmental impact assessments.

Concurring in the need to develop a better understanding of climate dynamics, Secretary Richardson voiced support for recommendations of the Domestic Council Subcommittee on Climate for a National Climate Program as well as for the World Meteorological Organization climatic efforts. In the field of weather modification, he agreed with NACOA's recommendation that there is a need for more basic research and more attention to its environmental, economic and social impacts.

Stating that the Sea Grant Program has performed well in its first decade, the Secretary agreed with the Committee that there is a need for further evaluation of the program procedures. He has directed the Administrator of NOAA to review these procedures and make needed revisions to accomplish the objectives set forth by the Committee.

EPA Administrator Train, commenting on NACOA's suggestions for improvement of the agency's research programs, said that his Science Advisory Board, whose members are all outside EPA, soon will evaluate the application of long-term ecological research to the EPA mission.

Commenting on the Committee's expressed concerns over the institutional aspects of long-range research on environmental problems, Secretary Richardson said the passage of the National Science, Engineering, Technology Policy and Priority Acts should produce a review of all the science and technology coordinating mechanisms within the Federal Government. "It is my hope," he said, "that this review would result...in a discussion of NACOA's recommendations and means to achieve their thrust."

Responding to NACOA's finding of deficiencies in research related to diver physiology, the Secretary of Defense stated that the Navy will be placing increased emphasis on the subject and that its funding for diving medical research is expected to increase \$3 million over the next three years.

NACOA's comments on weather and air safety were called "timely" by Secretary Richardson, who noted that the recommendations would require substantial new Federal investments in manpower, communications and equipment, and would require careful budgetary review. He cited new efforts such as thunderstorm airport alert tests in the New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. areas; greater emphasis on weather education for pilots and air traffic control special-

ists; and an experimental program at the Kansas City Air Route Traffic Control Center in Kansas City provide improved weather communications to pilots in flight.

"A Report to the President and the Congress" is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, at \$2.00 per copy.

ERL To Purchase Precision Cameras For Airborne Work

An array of airborne motion-picture cameras capable of photographing cloud systems, ocean waves, and terrain, have been ordered by the Environmental Research Laboratories from the Instrumentation Marketing Corporation of Burbank, Calif.

Under the \$188,212 contract, the firm is to supply 15 precision 16-millimeter cameras capable of time lapse, normal, or high speed motion picture operation, which will be installed on NOAA's two new Lockheed WP-3D Orions and one WC-130B aircraft.

The aircraft are operated by ERL's Research Facilities Center in Miami, Fla.

During operation, cameras will be stilled to look downward and photograph weather-related erosion and other processes which have affected the earth's surface and coastlines from altitudes as high as 32,800 feet (10,000 meters).

Forward-looking and side-looking cameras will shoot close-ups of hurricane formation and other severe storm systems. At lower altitudes the cameras will also capture wave action during research missions along coastlines and over water.

The cameras are scheduled for delivery later this year.

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NOAA Week reserves the right to make corrections, changes or deletions in submitted copy in conformity with the policies of the paper or the Administrator.

Catherine S. Cawley, Editor
Warren W. Buck, Jr., Art Director

Porpoise Ban

(Continued from page 1)

A quota of 78,000 porpoises could be killed by the U.S. yellowfin tuna fleet during 1976 was set by NMFS on June 11, 1976. Although reports through August from NMFS observers with the fleet indicated that the quota would not be reached, unusually heavy fishing on porpoise during September resulted in a heavy kill, with the quota projected to be reached October 19.

Because of the necessity to notify the U.S. vessels, many of them thousands of miles at sea, regulations provide for seven days notice of a ban such as this. Publication of the notice in the *Federal Register* was made one week ago.

In addition to the provisions affecting the U.S. fleet, the regulations published October 15 by NMFS provide that yellowfin tuna caught in association with marine mammals after October 21 may not be imported into the United States. Subsequent to October 21, they say, nations wishing to export tuna to the United States must certify that the fish was caught by boats that did not encircle or take marine mammals.

Modern yellowfin tuna fishing vessels use purse seines, large nets that draw up like an old-fashioned purse, to catch the fish. Because yellowfin tuna often swim in schools very close to schools of porpoise, the tuna fishermen may "set on" porpoise to catch the tuna associated with them. Although through efforts of the fishermen, about 98 percent of the porpoises are freed, the remainder become enmeshed in the nets.

NMFS observers, who are on board about 10 percent of the tuna vessels, sail under the authority of the general permit to record information on porpoise mortality. Because encircling or taking porpoise will no longer be permitted, there is no clear legal authority for NMFS to require that observers be kept on the boats, and the *Federal Register* notice provides that they may be returned immediately to any of several listed ports, or at the end of the voyage, at the discretion of the vessel captain.

Correction

The photo caption on page 8 of NOAA Week for October 8, indicated that Commerce Bronze Medal winner Euelyn Allan received the award at her retirement luncheon. Ms. Allan does not intend to retire in the near future. NOAA Week regrets the error.

Forestry Weather Training Seminar Held In Tennessee

A forestry weather training seminar was held September 20-23, near Lewisburg, Tenn. Officials from the National Weather Service, the U.S. Forest Service, two state forestry agencies, and the U.S. Air Force participated. This seminar, together with a similar one held the previous week in Michigan, provided training for NWS forestry weather personnel and increased liaison between the NWS and users of NWS forestry weather products. Attending the seminar from the NWS were: Rich Bailey-NWSH, Washington, D.C.; Tom Weaver-WSFO, Raleigh, N.C.; Ed Paquet-WSFO, Columbia, S.C.; John Smith-CRH, Kansas City, Mo.; Jim Hand-WSFO, Washington, D.C.; Jeff Brown-WSFO, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Carlos Garza-WSFO, Birmingham, Ala.; Harold Cummins-WSFO, Atlanta, Ga.; Warren Wallis-WSFO, New Orleans, La.; Joe Knack-WSFO, Memphis, Tenn.; Derrel Martin-WSO, Tampa, Fla.; Joe Sassman-SRH, Ft. Worth, Tex.; Don Devore-WSFO, Oklahoma City, Okla.; Steve Harned-NWSH, Washington, D.C.; Mike Looney-WSFO, Little Rock, Ark.; George Smith-WSFO, Jackson, Miss.; Larry Burns-NWSTTC, Kansas City, Mo.; Joe Audsley-NWSTTC, Kansas City, Mo.

Scientists Study Hurricane In New York Bight

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sludge dumpsite there. The scientists had surveyed the area only three months before and are looking for changes brought by the storm.

From the MESA New York Bight Project's 50-foot (15 meter) catamaran Johnson, the two also scanned the bottom of the Bight with sonar. The project has an established network of track lines along which sonar measurements had been made only three months previously. After Belle, the Johnson retraced these paths, collecting sonar records along 29 miles (47 kilometers) of the ocean bottom to see if bottom sediments had been redistributed.

Other researchers from the Miami laboratories, Dr. Robert Young, NOAA Lt. Richard West, and Philip Hanson, set out to study the effects of the hurricane on the suspended matter in the Bight waters. From the State University of New York's vessel Onrust, they collected water samples from at least three depths at 12 sites in the Bight Apex. They wanted to learn to what extent the storm stirred up the waters, clouding them with materials from the bottom. Young, West, and Hanson collected over 40 samples from the

NWS's Dr. Danny Fread Wins Two Top National Engineering Awards

Dr. Danny L. Fread, research hydrologist with the National Weather Service's Hydrologic Re-



Dr. Fread

search Laboratory, Silver Spring, Md. received two national awards for 1976 from the American Society of Civil Engineers, at their annual convention held the week of September 27, in Philadelphia, Pa. The award winners were selected by the Society's Board of Directors from among more than 72,000 civil engineering members.

Dr. Fread was awarded the 1976 Walter L. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize and the 1976 J. C. Stevens Award. He was among five persons receiving the Huber Research Prize, but only one Stevens Award is given each year.

The Huber Research Prize is for outstanding research in structural, hydraulic-hydrologic, transportation, environmental, and soils engineering. Fread was cited for his hydraulic research on the unsteady open-channel flow of water. His findings have been in-

corporated into current engineering practice, both here and abroad.

The Stevens award is given each year to the author the Society judges to have submitted the best discussion published by the Society in hydraulics, fluid mechanics or hydrology. Fread's award-winning discussion was of the paper, "Comparison of Four Numerical Methods for Flood Routing," in which he introduced a method for predicting floods in rivers with large flood plains.

As a result of Dr. Fread's research on unsteady-flow of water, he has developed an accurate and efficient mathematical method of forecasting floods in rivers. It now is being used on the Ohio-Mississippi River system, and its use is being extended to other rivers to enhance the National Weather Service capability for public warnings of impending floods, as well as for navigation, power, and recreational uses.

Dr. Fread holds a B.S. degree with Highest Honor in Civil Engineering from the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, Rolla, Mo., received in 1961. In 1969, he received an M.S. degree, and in 1971, a Ph.D., both from the University of Missouri, Rolla, Mo.

top 100 feet (30 meters) of water, to determine particle concentrations and grain size, and concentrations of organic carbon, nutrients, and trace metals.

Dr. Malcolm Bowman, a physical oceanographer from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, studied the temperature, salinity, and chlorophyll (a measure of biological activity) in surface waters and at selected depths to determine whether the intense rainfall from the storm augmented the plume of fresh water from the Hudson River.

The data have not all been analyzed yet, but, say the researchers, Belle seems to have had little effect on the Bight ecosystem. Surveying the region by helicopter, Young saw only the usual amounts of floating debris; the Hudson River plume appeared normal for that season. It will be at least six months before the water samples are completely analyzed, but, he says, "first inferences are that the system was normal for this time of year. If it was disturbed by Belle, it didn't take long to return to equilibrium."

There were several reasons for Belle's small impact, say the scientists. By the time the storm reached the New York area, it

was milder than anticipated, and it passed rapidly through the area. Then, too, the researchers point out, the fact that the storm passed through at low tide minimized its effects on water levels.

Belle was not the ideal subject for a study of hurricane effects. But even though preliminary surveys suggest that the storm had little ecological impact, analyses, yet to come, of the water and sediment samples, may show more subtle effects and assist in projecting the consequences of future hurricanes.

Kings Point Facility Slates Observance Of Anniversary

NOAA Anniversary activities around the nation next week include an open house at Kings Point, N.Y., on October 28 sponsored by the NOAA Corps. The NOAA Officer Training Center will be open to visitors from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. with the new class and instructors available for questions. At 3:00 p.m. R. Adm. Harley D. Nygren, NOAA Corps Director, will host a reception for senior faculty members of the Merchant Marine Academy and other guests.

Fisheries' Reorganization

(Continued from page 1)

grams; develops studies of new theory, techniques, and procedures to achieve fisheries resource quotas which will protect the stocks; and predicts the impact of complex, multi-species fisheries decisions.

The Office of Marine Recreational Fisheries coordinates the planning and development of a diversified program in marine recreational fisheries and relates with other governmental, State, and private organizations.

Seven existing fisheries research centers and three existing utilization research centers have been consolidated into four centers responsible for both biological/environmental research and fisheries utilization research. This change involves a decentralization of authority and a consolidation of management responsibility for NMFS research.

No fisheries laboratories will be closed or relocated as a result of the reorganization, but all research units will report directly to one of the four research centers in the field instead of to Washington headquarters.

Additionally, research centers now have primary responsibility for the conduct of socioeconomic research required for the development of fisheries management plans under the provisions of the Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

The four centers are also responsible for providing scientific research support to the Regional Fishery Management Councils established by the Act.

The four centers, and their component units, are:

Northeast Center—Woods Hole, Mass.; Woods Hole Laboratory, Woods Hole, Mass.; Narragansett Laboratory, Narragansett, R.I.; Gloucester Laboratory, Gloucester, Mass.; Highlands Laboratory, Highlands, N.J.; Milford Laboratory, Milford, Conn.; Oxford Laboratory, Oxford, Md.; National Systematics Laboratory, Washington, D.C.; Atlantic Environmental Group, Narragansett, R.I.

Southeast Center—Miami, Fla.; Miami Laboratory, Miami, Fla.; Pascagoula Laboratory, Pascagoula, Miss.; Galveston Laboratory, Galveston, Tex.; Panama City Laboratory, Panama City, Fla.; National Fisheries Engineering Laboratory, Bay St. Louis, Miss.; Port Aransas Laboratory, Port Aransas, Tex.; Beaufort Laboratory, Beaufort, N.C.; College Park Laboratory, College Park, Md.

Southwest Center—La Jolla, Calif.; La Jolla Laboratory, La Jolla, Calif.; Tiburon Laboratory, Tiburon, Calif.; Honolulu Laboratory, Honolulu, Hawaii; Pacific Environmental Group, Monterey, Calif.

Northwest and Alaska Center—Seattle, Wash.; Seattle Lab-

oratory, Seattle, Wash.; Auke Bay Laboratory, Auke Bay, Alaska.

More decentralization of program direction and control from Washington to the five NMFS Regional Offices (located in Gloucester, Mass.; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Terminal Island, Calif.; Seattle, Wash.; and Juneau, Alaska) will also be achieved.

Among the management functions previously performed in Washington that will now be performed by regional offices are enforcement and surveillance, fisheries statistics, and fisheries financial support.

Moreover, new functions stemming from extended jurisdiction will be added to regional responsibilities; administrative and technical support to the Regional Fisheries Management Councils will be provided by the regional offices; and Regional Directors, under the Act, will serve as members of the Councils.

Research Labs Set Boulder Art Contest

In Boulder, NOAA is celebrating its sixth anniversary with an art contest, and Boulder Valley's third-to-sixth graders have been invited to enter the competition.

Entries will be judged for execution and for how well they depict the contest theme, "Understanding the Oceans and Atmosphere."

All prize winners and honorable mentions will receive certificates. In addition, the winning artists' school libraries will receive a *Junior Encyclopaedia Britannica* as first prize, an *International Cloud Atlas* as second prize, and a set of full-color fish and marine-mammal posters as third prize. *NOAA Week* will carry the winning entry.



A NEW THREE-YEAR AGREEMENT was signed recently between the Northwest Region and Northwest and Alaska Center, NMFS, in Seattle, Wash., and Local 8 of the National Federation of Federal Employees. Signing for the two organizations were: (seated from left) Alonzo T. Pruter, Deputy Director, NWAC; Donald R. Johnson, Regional Director, Northwest Region; Herbert H. Shippen, President, NFFE Local 8; (standing left to right) Gordon D. Shadoan, Chief, Personnel Division, NASO; Hazel H. Carr, Negotiating Team Member, NFFE; Freel Hubbard, Chief Negotiator, Personnel Division, NASO; and Frank J. Ossiander, Negotiating Team Member, NFFE.

Tax Reform Act Increases Benefits Available To Nation's Fishermen

The Tax Reform Act of 1976, signed into law October 4, contains several changes affecting the tax status of United States fishermen, according to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

The Act increases the benefits available to users of the Capital Construction Fund (CCF) tax-deferral program and increases the number of fishermen eligible to use the program.

The CCF program, administered by NOAA, enables fishermen to construct, reconstruct, or, under limited circumstances, acquire fishing vessels with before-tax (rather than after-tax) dollars by allowing them to defer payment of Federal taxes on income from the operation of their vessels.

These Federal taxes, when deferred and used to help pay for a qualified vessel project, amount to an interest-free loan from the Government.

Previously, fishermen using the CCF program were not allowed to claim investment tax credit on that portion of a vessel's cost paid for under the CCF program. The Act provides, however, that a five percent investment tax credit may now be claimed even on the portion of a vessel's cost paid for under the CCF program (the regular 10 percent investment tax credit is still available for the portion of a vessel's cost not paid for under the CCF program). This change applies to vessels placed in service during taxable years after December 31, 1975.

Only fishing vessels of at least five net tons had previously been eligible for the CCF program. The Act, however, now extends CCF eligibility to all fishing vessels two net tons or more.

Under the Act, operators fishing boats with fewer than crewmen no longer have to withhold taxes from crew pay, or make Social Security contributions, if the crew's pay consists only of a share of the boat's or the fleet's catch. Until now, crewmen on fishing boats were treated as regular employees rather than as self-employed, regardless of how they were paid. However, fishing boat operators employing one or more individuals still are required to comply with certain reporting provisions of the Act.

Another section of the Act clarifies the status of certain fishermen's organizations which may now qualify to receive the lower postal rates enjoyed by tax-exempt agricultural organizations.

obituaries

Benson Needham

Benson Needham, Electronics Technician aboard the NOAA Ship Ferrel, died on September 28. He had served over eighteen years with the Federal Government in NOAA, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, Norfolk Naval Station, the Coast Guard and the Air Force. He is survived by his wife Anne and his children Cheryle and Eric in Shiloh, North Carolina.

Walter P. Roquemore

Walter P. Roquemore, who retired from the NWS Southern Regional Headquarters, in Fort Worth, Tex., in 1970, died October 14. Mr. Roquemore entered the Weather Service in 1931 in Palestine, Tex., and held several positions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area during the period 1937 to 1970. He also served a two-year tour at NWS Headquarters. The family may be addressed at 1409 Harrington St., Ft. Worth, Tex., 76106.

Gerald L. Austin

Gerald L. Austin, a Meteorological Technician at the Weather Service Forecast Office in Bismarck, N. Dak., died October 18. Mr. Austin had worked for the Department of Commerce since his retirement from the military in 1965. He worked for the Bureau of the Census from 1965 until he joined the Weather Service at Bismarck in 1974. He is survived by his wife Geraldine and two children at 602 11th St., N.W., Mandan, N. Dak. 58554.



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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